

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT**

Docket Number:  
11443/158

Application Number  
10/676,046

Filing Date  
September 30, 2003

Examiner

Art Unit  
3739

Invention Title  
**SELF CONTAINED STERILIZABLE ENDOSCOPE**

Inventor(s)  
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Commissioner for Patents  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an  
envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


By:   
Michelle M. Carniaux, Reg. No. 36,098

Date: 17 Feb 2004

I. In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in conformance with the procedures of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609, attorneys for Applicant hereby brings the following references to the attention of the Examiner. The references are listed on the attached modified PTO Form No. 1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and the enclosed PTO Form No. 1449, shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b).

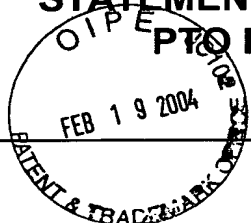
II. A copy of each patent, publication or other information listed on the modified PTO form 1449.

Dated: 17 Feb 2004

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <b>PTO FORM 1449</b>	Atty. Docket No. <b>11443/158</b>	Serial No. <b>10/676,046</b>
	Applicant(s) <b>Michael P. Whitman</b>	
	Filing Date <b>September 30, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit <b>3739</b>



**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT/ PUBLICATION NUMBER	PATENT/ PUBLICATION DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	5,243,967	September 14, 1993	Hibino			
	6,019,719	February 1, 2000	Schulz et al.			
	6,447,444	September 10, 2002	Avni et al.			
	2001/000672	May 3, 2001	Yamakita et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	196 26 433	January 15, 1998	DE			*	
	0 774 231	May 21, 1997	EP			n/a	
	0 341 719	November 15, 1989	EP			n/a	
	WO 01/62163	August 30, 2001	PCT			n/a	
	WO 02/055126	July 18, 2002	PCT			n/a	

\* English Abstract provided.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS		AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	